



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

November 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

November 22: W9JP POTA operating event at Ft. Harrison SP at 12:00 noon.

December 12: Annual Holiday Pitch-In **Dinner at 6:30 pm**

January 9: IRC meeting **via Zoom**. Presentation by Steve McVoy from the Early Television Museum.

Highlights from the November Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by IRC VP, Jim Brown, W0RLD. There were around 30 in attendance. This evening's presenter, Noy, KE9DBN was recognized as a new Technician class amateur. Jim introduced the current slate of officers for the election. There were no additional candidates nominated from the floor. With all of the current officers willing to serve another term in their current positions and no additional nominations from the floor, Jim declared by acclamation that the current slate would continue into 2026.

Next Jim introduced the presenter for the evening, Noy Winzigster, KE9DBN to give a presentation on drones and the technology used in them. Noy first started with a discussion of the control link vs. the video link (two separate technologies). He talked about digital vs analog video links and their advantages and disadvantages. Digital has a much higher video quality possible, but doesn't degrade gracefully; this is the importance of having a direct line-of-sight observer which is legally required. Analog has lower quality video, but relay systems (effectively, aerial repeaters) are more doable for control.

Regarding the anatomy of a drone, there are plastic and carbon fiber frame versions. Noy also discussed operating systems and flight control systems. There was also discussion of AIO (all-in-one) board vs. flight stack designs. Noy and his colleagues also compared architectures: HDzero, Walksnail, DJI, OpenIPC. There was talk about the FCC banning DJI's ability to get an FCC license effective Jan 01, 2026. This is not an issue for individuals, however professional drone users will be affected as they won't be able to license. The pros and cons of Fiber-optic were discussed: It's an unjammable link and has a range up to 100 km now. However, there are environmental issues and it is incredibly expensive. Discussion came up on how to get into flying quad drones. The concern is that you'll crash your only drone. He suggested starting with a sim-only radio where you can get started for as low as \$24. Drones are powered by LiPo batteries. There was a little discussion regarding the use of "Tiny Whoop" drones, which can allow people to fly in public places covertly. Noy said there is lots of information on YouTube. There is no need to pay for information on how to get into the hobby. Noy and his colleagues showed some of their drone technique at this point and this led to lots of discussion from those present.

Steve, K9MD won the door prize drawing for a DX Engineering \$25 gift certificate.
[Thanks to Kyle, KC9GLR for providing notes from this meeting.]

Ham Radio News:

NOVEMBER 22 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, November 22 at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan to be on the air by noon with 2 HF stations. We will be set up at our normal spot, in front of the Visitor Center. If you have heard of the POTA program, but not been able to take part, this is your chance! Even if you're not licensed for HF, there will be control operators on site to help get you on the air. Both radios will have 2 positions, one for the operator and one for a logger, in case you need help logging. As usual, we will be using the club's call sign of W9JP, but if you're registered with the POTA system, you will get credit for the QSOs you make. So, if you're new to HF or POTA, or even if you're an experienced operator, stop by on November 22. We'll try to make sure the new operators get a chance to get on the air, but with 2 radios, anyone that wants to get on should be able to.

This event is open to everyone, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC to attend. As usual, we will have coffee, donuts, and water available for refreshments. Even if you don't want to operate, just stop on by to chat with everyone.

DON'T MISS THE IRC HOLIDAY PITCH-IN!

The club plans to once again host a Holiday Pitch-In dinner on Friday, December 12. As we did last year, **the event will start around 6:30 pm at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility.** As in years past, there will be lots of door prizes available to all that attend. Members in good standing of the Indianapolis Radio Club will also be eligible for the grand prize of a \$100 DX Engineering gift certificate. There will also be a 50/50 cash prize drawing (50% to the winner, 50% to the IRC).

The club will furnish Fried Chicken, Sliced Ham (new this year), and chili. In an effort to have less wasted food, this year we are implementing a "check-off list" of items needed for the event.

Also, as we have done for the past few years, we will have a slide show of POTA and other amateur related items. So, if you have photos of POTA events, Field Day, or any other ham radio slides you would like added to the show, please send them to ken.kj9b@gmail.com. Something new for this year will be live keyboard music provided by Dave Rogers, KB9YYM's wife, Guna!

Please complete the RSVP at <https://forms.gle/M2ncHkZfA1j18Mmx5> as soon as you can. Also, if your plans change, and you find you can't attend, send an email to board@indyradioclub.org so we can update our food purchases.

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

On November 8, 2025, 4 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing. 2 new hams earned their first license and 1 ham upgraded. Thanks to Richard Mullen WD9HCP, Paul Brandenburg KB9MEG, Jim Rinehart K9RU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

NEW DESIGN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATES COMING!

Our ARRL Indiana Section Manager, Bob Burns, AK9R has been working with Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles staff over the past few weeks on a redesign of the Indiana Amateur Radio License Plate. The release date has yet to be determined. BMV is still

working out some details regarding this revised plate. Bob says that it's entirely likely that the plate won't be available until after the first of the year and asks everyone to be patient. Bob also says that the current \$8 fee for an amateur radio plate in Indiana is codified in State Law. Here's what the proposed new design will be:



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE IRC

You can support the Indianapolis Radio Club in any, or all, of these four ways:

1. Join the club. Your annual membership dues of \$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family (in the same household), or \$10 for a student, (with valid ID) help support the club in its mission to promote our hobby by sponsoring monthly VE testing sessions, reaching out to new licensees, and welcoming them to the hobby. The easiest way to join is to go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and complete the process through PayPal.
2. Pay your ARRL membership dues through the IRC, utilizing the Club Commission program. The club will get a \$5 commission for renewals, or a \$20 commission for new memberships. Fill out the form available at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> and send it, along with payment, to club treasurer, KJ9B. Or fill out one of the forms at an in-person meeting.
3. Join the Kroger Community Rewards program (it's free!) by going to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and designating the Indianapolis Radio Club as the charity you want to support. The club then gets a

quarterly donation from Kroger based on a percentage of the amount spent by those supporting the club.

4. If applicable, donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Indianapolis Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) charity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B, at treasurer@indyradioclub.org.

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP AND NET FOR AREA HAMS

Todd Owen, KE9DQS has started a group page on Facebook called "White Lick Valley Amateur Radio" that's open to all Hams, but is specifically geared toward the West and Southwestern suburb communities of Indy. Todd says he has lived in the White Lick Valley his entire life. He's looking to collaborate with Hams, new and old; licensed or looking to become licensed; causal users; Linux nerds; DIYers and homebrewers; elmers and experts; preppers; and even those who've never touched a radio before.

There will be a net for this group starting on Monday, Dec. 1st at 8pm on the W9WWV Repeater (145.11MHz, PL 88.5).

Questions regarding the new group and net can be sent to Todd at toddowen79@yahoo.com. I check it often so feel free to reach out any time. The direct link to the group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wlvsystem>

AN HISTORIC LOOK AT IRC MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Continuing a feature started last month, here is the next installment of the locations of meetings and other historic details of the Indianapolis Radio Club. The information presented in this series was originally compiled by Chuck Crist, W9IH (SK) in 2004, and has been updated as needed.

Year(s)	Meeting locations and other notes
1920-26	Moved 4 times: * Old Shortridge High School, N. Pennsylvania St.

	* YMCA * Chamber of Commerce Bldg. * back to the YMCA <i>During this period, the IRC owned and operated WBBI, a pioneering broadcasting station</i>
1922	<i>First IRC sponsored Hoosier Hamfest on April 5.</i>
1926	Old Naval Reserve Armory, E. North St. W9JP callsign obtained and operated <i>(had been Donald M. Davis' for spark transmitter. Davis was first trustee of call)</i>

More to come from the IRC's 111 year history in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
 Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
 Date: Dec 06 2025
 Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: William F. Wootton
 (812) 327-5457
 Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: First United Church
 2420 E 3rd St
 Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254
 Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
 Date: Dec 13 2025
 Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
 Contact: James Kajder
 (505) 228-3704
 Email: testing@indyradioclub.org

VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Register or Call ahead
Indianapolis IN 46254

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Dec 16 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the 1946 *Amachewer*:

D.J. Angus, W9CYQ, recently took note of the fact that a radio club in Milwaukee, Wis. is laying claim to the title of "Oldest Radio Club". According to D.J., the minutes of the IRC will prove

that our organization antedates that of the Milwaukee group by several years. Let's dig up those records and prevail upon Mr. Angus to use them as the basis of a program about the "Good Old Days".

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- **WVARA Turkeyfest: November 29 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds.** Go to <https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php> for more information.

2025 and 2026 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

